



## Christian Children's Fund - Belarus

# “COMMUNITY SERVICES TO VULNERABLE GROUPS” QUARTERLY PROGRAM REPORT

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### Component II “HIV/AIDS NGO Capacity Building in Belarus”

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Name of USAID office:

USAID/Ukraine Regional Contracting office  
USAID Regional Mission representative office in Belarus  
Democracy, human rights and development

Development objective:

## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### A. PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

“HIV/AIDS NGO Capacity Building in Belarus” is aimed at reducing the transmission of HIV within Belarus by strengthening the capacity of local NGOs and community groups to deliver effective HIV/AIDS program services that target high-risk populations, as well as educate the general public.

*The project has three main objectives:*

- To strengthen the organizational and managerial capacity of Belarusian NGOs/CSOs working in HIV/AIDS sector to deliver effective and sustainable community managed HIV/AIDS services.
- To improve the technical capacity of Belarusian NGOs/CSOs to deliver HIV prevention and care interventions effectively.
- To enhance the networking capacity of Belarusian NGOs and CSOs, working on HIV/AIDS, inter-and-cross sector relationships and cooperation.

### B. PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

In the reported period CCF-Belarus increased the number and variety of its project interventions. A group of national trainers continued multiplication workshops on HIV/AIDS in new geographic regions / districts; sub-grantees continued implementation of small grants awarded in April, 2006; the Belarusian AIDS Network enhanced its role and influence as an advocate of the interests of Belarusian AIDS-service NGOs and PLWHA; First cross border study tour to Ukraine became the project highlights in the report period.

NGOs-implementers of the Global Fund project were among the active project participants. They were NGO “Belarusian Association of UNESCO Clubs”, NGO “Positive Movement”, NGO “Alternative”, NGO “Mothers against drugs”, NGO “Vstrecha”.

In summary, thus far:

- More than **100** NGOs from all over Belarus (Minsk, Mogilev, Grodno, Gomel, Vitebsk, Brest regions) were involved in the different project activities including educational events, study tours, round tables and information support
- **447** participants representing different Belarusian AIDS-service NGOs took part in **26** educational workshops
- The national trainers team continued multiplication workshops on HIV/AIDS in 7 regions
- **Seven** AIDS-service NGOs continued implementation of micro-grant
- Twenty four community-based HIV/AIDS services were established by sub-grantees
- **1,690** direct beneficiaries (vulnerable groups) and **60,000** indirect beneficiaries (general public) from Minsk, Vitebsk, Brest, Pinsk, Svetlogorsk, Soligorsk, and Gomel were involved
- **1,000** PLWHA reached by national public awareness campaign conducted by Belarusian AIDS Network and CCF for International AIDS Day
- First cross-border study tour to neighboring Ukraine was organized for Belarusian AIDS-service NGOs
- Two advocacy campaigns and one public awareness campaign were conducted at the national level by the Belarusian AIDS Network

## II. SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

### **OBJECTIVE 1**

*To strengthen the organizational and managerial capacity of Belarusian NGOs/CSOs working in HIV/AIDS sector to deliver effective and sustainable community managed HIV/AIDS services.*

<b>Activity: Workshop “Strategic Priorities in HIV/AIDS”</b> (October 8, 2006, Minsk)	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>

CCF grantees will identify long-term priorities and targets in HIV/AIDS programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Leaders and project managers of <b>5</b> NGOs participated in the workshop.</li> <li>▪ CCF grantees analyzed their current services, capacities and resources; formulated future priorities and targets for their HIV/AIDS programs; identified needs in additional technical assistance.</li> </ul>
<p><u>Critical notes:</u> Based on small and short-term micro-grants CCF wants to facilitate (support) partner NGOs' long-term interventions in HIV/AIDS. This workshop was a first exercise of CCF grantees analyzing current and future priorities in HIV/AIDS and step towards a common NGO strategy in this area.</p> <p><u>Improvements for the next quarter:</u> The next quarter CCF will strengthen the efforts in facilitating strategic thinking of AIDS-service NGOs. A broader number of NGOs will be involved in theme workshops to form strategic approach in response to the epidemic.</p>	

<b>Activity: Follow up technical assistance: Strategic Planning Workshop.</b> (NGO "New faces". October 21-22, 2006, Minsk)	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
The NGO will be provided with additional technical assistance to support the process of strategic planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Twelve</b> NGO members were involved in the participatory Strategic Planning process.</li> <li>▪ At the workshop the NGO mission was revised and agreed upon by all participants; the participants developed the future vision of NGO "New faces"; the Strategic Planning Working Group was created to ensure further steps toward strategic plan development.</li> </ul>
<p><u>Improvements/ plans for the next quarter:</u> The project team will continue follow-up with focused technical assistance through workshops, seminars, working meetings, and presentations to individual NGOs upon their request. The next quarter Strategic Planning workshops are planned to be conducted with AIDS-service NGOs "Positive Movement" and "Focus Group".</p>	

<b>Activity: Workshop "Effective facilitation of group meetings"</b> (November 11-12, 2006, Minsk)	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
Managers and key staff of AIDS-service NGOs will improve skills in organizing and facilitating working meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Sixteen (16)</b> participants from <b>9</b> organizations took part in the workshop.</li> <li>▪ Training participants improved <b>theoretical knowledge</b> regarding different types of working meetings; main steps of preparation a meeting; facilitator's role and competencies; criteria for evaluation of effectiveness of a meeting.</li> <li>▪ Training participants enhanced their <b>skills</b> in design of a working meeting agenda; doing a presentation; getting/analyzing feedback; making decisions; evaluating effectiveness of a working meeting.</li> </ul>

<b>Activity: Workshop "Managing Conflicts"</b> (November 18, 2006, Minsk)	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
Managers and key staff of AIDS-service NGOs will improve knowledge and skills in conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Seventeen (17)</b> participants from <b>12</b> organizations took part in the workshop.</li> <li>▪ Training participants improved <b>theoretical knowledge</b> regarding</li> </ul>

resolution	<p>the nature of conflict; causes and outcomes of interpersonal and organizational conflicts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Through practical exercises and role play participants <b>learned</b> about the role of effective communication and tried different types of behavior in conflict situations.</li> </ul>
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<b>Activity: Training “Financial management”</b> (November 25-26, 2006, Minsk)	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
Managers and key staff of AIDS-service NGOs will improve knowledge and skills in financial management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Fourteen (14)</b> participants from <b>11</b> organizations took part in the training.</li> <li>▪ Training participants improved <b>theoretical knowledge</b> regarding the main principles of financial management; NGO and project managers’ role in managing finances; legal frameworks and organizational policies related to finance.</li> <li>▪ During the training participants accomplished <b>exercises</b> and <b>case studies</b> in budgeting, monitoring and control of budget implementation, systems of internal financial control. Training participants practiced their skills in developing master budget, cash flow, balance sheet. They also learned standards of financial reporting.</li> </ul>

[✎ Follow-up and Impact:](#)

- ✓ Alexander Hadanovich, leader of AIDS-service NGO “*Alternativa*” (Svetlogorsk) conducted an in-house working meeting with financial staff and managers. They discussed how training materials could be applied to their operations. As the result the group developed NGO annual budget for 2007 and started monitoring spending on a regular basis. Alexander pointed out that the training helped him to understand that finance should not be the responsibility of financial staff only. Now he takes more responsibility in overall finance management and oversight.
- ✓ Svetlana Pagirskaya, leader of NGO “*Golubye Berega*” (Mogilev) conducted an in-house presentation for thirteen staff members to share training materials and discuss NGO financial management issues. The NGO developed a cash flow and made a balance spreadsheet. Svetlana reported that financial monitoring and internal control systems have become new procedures for this NGO’s financial management.

<b>Activity: Workshop “Managing Volunteers in HIV/AIDS programs”</b> (December 16-17, 2006, Minsk)	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
Representatives of AIDS-service NGOs will improve knowledge and skills in volunteer management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Seventeen</b> participants from <b>9</b> organizations took part in the workshop.</li> <li>▪ Training participants improved <b>theoretical knowledge</b> about recruitment, motivation and recognition of volunteers.</li> <li>▪ During the training, participants discussed the common needs of AIDS-service NGOs regarding volunteers and identified the main purposes of getting volunteers involved in programs. They also developed drafts of action plans to organize volunteer work for their NGOs.</li> </ul>
<u><i>Critical notes:</i></u> Taking into account that participants were interested in real life examples related to different aspects of volunteer management, CCF invited a leader of <i>Volunteer Club “Miloserdie”</i> to share experiences. Presentations of practical cases and findings reinforced the theoretical part of the workshop. It was a good illustration of how volunteer management could be applied into the practice of their own NGOs.	

[✎ Follow up and Impact:](#)

- ✓ Vadim Kruk, participant from NGO “Vstrecha” (Gomel branch) conducted an in-house volunteer management workshop with the group of NGO volunteers and beneficiaries. He reported that it was the first time that NGO volunteers were purposefully involved in a structured capacity building activity. It resulted in their increased motivation and activism. Thus, 4 new people joined the NGO volunteer group.
- ✓ Anna Maisevich, a participant from NGO “Belarus Association of Young Christian Women” (Smorgon branch) organized a volunteer campaign in a local community and collected humanitarian aid for children with special needs. She also plans HIV/AIDS volunteer action in a local school.

## OBJECTIVE 2

*To improve the technical capacity of Belarusian NGOs/CSOs to deliver HIV prevention and care interventions effectively.*

<b>Activity: Training “Comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention programming”</b> by Bill Ryan (professor McGill University, Canada)- November 4-7, 2006, Minsk	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
Members of National HIV/AIDS trainers team and specialists of Belarusian AIDS-service NGOs will improve knowledge in design of HIV/AIDS prevention programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Sixteen</b> participants from <b>16</b> organizations took part in the training.</li> <li>▪ Training participants improved <b>theoretical knowledge</b> regarding behavior change communication approach; Canadian model of HIV/AIDS prevention work; information materials, which are used by Canadian NGOs in public awareness campaigns.</li> <li>▪ At the training participants analyzed examples of successful and failed public awareness campaigns in HIV/AIDS; drafted ideas of HIV/AIDS prevention public events.</li> </ul>

<b>Activity: Training “Counseling skills for care and support interventions”</b> by AIDS Foundation East-West, Ukraine (November 4-7, 2006, Minsk)	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
Members of National HIV/AIDS trainers team and specialists of Belarusian AIDS-service NGOs will upgrade their knowledge and skills in counseling;  They will be able to elaborate the training module and conduct multiplication workshops on this topic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Sixteen</b> participants from <b>16</b> organizations took part in the training.</li> <li>▪ Training participants improved <b>theoretical knowledge</b> about counseling as a prevention method; different types of counseling and its application; developed their counseling skills</li> <li>▪ Through exercises, experience exchange and discussions participants upgraded their skills in design of educational programs for the specialists; analysis of opportunities and limitations of different counseling services for the different vulnerable groups.</li> </ul>

<b>Activity: Multiplication workshops on HIV/AIDS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Sixteen</b> multiplication workshops on HIV/AIDS were conducted by the national HIV/AIDS trainer team in <b>seven</b> communities including Mogilev, Vitebsk, Brest, Pinsk, Orsha, Mozyr, Baran. <b>Three hundred</b> people representing regional NGOs, state-sponsored services, and vulnerable groups were involved in education on HIV/AIDS.</li> <li>▪ Training participants reported improved knowledge of general HIV/AIDS issues; substance abuse and sexually transmitted infections as the co- risk factors.</li> </ul>

### Examples:

- ✓ NGO “Youth Education Center “Fialta” (Minsk) improved the quality of prevention programs for youth. **Two** new activists trained by CCF started working in HIV/AIDS doing peer-to-peer activities. In addition to school

students the NGO started to work with a **new target group** – students of technical colleges. In the future, the organization is going to start programs addressing stigma and discrimination of PLWHA.

- ✓ *NGO “Crossroad” (Vitebsk)*. The NGO’s volunteers who were trained at the workshops became activists of the project “*Youth movement against AIDS*”. They facilitated a series of events named “HIV prevention day” in local schools. Since NGO volunteers passed through workshops on “General HIV/AIDS Education”, “Substance abuse as co-risk factor for HIV”, and “STI as co-risk factor for HIV” the group of **twenty** young people started doing multiplication peer-to-peer seminars on HIV/AIDS. This helped NGO spread prevention programs to **new target groups**. They were working youth, librarians, and boarding schools specialists. In the future the NGO plans to launch HIV prevention activities with orphaned children.
- ✓ *Branch of NGO “UNESCO Clubs” (Brest)*. **Five** NGO activists took part in the multiplication workshop “General Education on HIV/AIDS”. As a follow up they shared workshop materials within the NGO and organized a themed disco in a school, where information about HIV/AIDS was presented to **300** students.
- ✓ *“Women Center of Support and Education” (Mogilev)*. Thanks to participation in multiplication workshops on HIV/AIDS the NGO become better equipped to work on HIV/AIDS. Increased staff motivation resulted in **2** more activists who became involved in the NGO’s HIV prevention programs, which were expanded to **new target groups**: librarians, social workers in local schools, and patients of a local clinic.
- ✓ *Women Club “Family” (Krichev, Mogilev region)*. Multiplication workshops on HIV/AIDS produced an enormous impact on this small initiative group located in a rural area. As a follow up “*Family*” activists helped to establish a youth discussion club in a neighboring village Moliatichi, where they conducted a seminar on HIV/AIDS and held an HIV/AIDS themed art contest.
- ✓ *NGO “Vesta” (Lida, Grodno region)*. After the workshop on general HIV/AIDS education the group decided to use this model in their own “Healthy life style” program and designed peer-to-peer seminar on HIV.

**Activity: HIV/AIDS Micro-grants**

- **Seven** projects awarded and registered in year 1 were implemented this quarter. They were as follow:
  1. *NGO “Belarusian Children’s Hospice”* (project “Establishment of self-help group of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA)”);
  2. *Pinsk branch of Republican NGO “Mothers against drugs”* (project Anonymous helpline “With open heart”);
  3. *Republican NGO “Mothers against drugs”* (project “Tough love”);
  4. *Republican Youth NGO “Vstrecha”* (project “Information handbook”);
  5. *NGO “Youth educational center “Crossroads”* (project “Youth movement against AIDS”);
  6. *Gomel NGO “Social projects”* (project “GomelInfoAIDS”);
  7. *NGO Local Charitable Foundation “Zemliachestvo”* (project “First step”)
- **Four** out of seven projects were completed.
- **Twenty-three** project proposals submitted to CCF-Belarus in September 2006 were reviewed this quarter. **11** projects were selected by CCF-Belarus to be awarded based on the recommendations of external experts on the project’s *Evaluation Committee*. In accordance with the Substantial Involvement section in the agreement, the CTO was informed to get USAID’s prior approval of sub-awards. Official agreements with CCF grantees will be signed in the next quarter. The total amount of newly selected sub-awards is **\$ 155,599.50**

**Results of small grants implementation:**

- ✓ **Twenty four** HIV/AIDS services were established in the following geographic locations: Minsk, Vitebsk, Brest, Pinsk, Svetlogorsk, Gomel (and Gomel region).
- ✓ The total number of beneficiaries (vulnerable groups) directly assisted by the CCF grantees was **1,690**. Among them:
  - PLWHA – 229;
  - Family members of PLWHA – 250;
  - IDUs and co-dependents – 180;
  - Women – 350;
  - Young people - 681
 Number of indirect beneficiaries (general public) reached **60,000**.

**“Belarusian Children’s Hospice”**

- Psychological rehabilitation of PLWHA in *self-help groups*
- *Individual counseling* of PLWHA regarding medical issues;
- *Individual psychological counseling* of PLWHA;
- *Social assistance* (individual consultation and advice of social worker) for PLWHA;
- *Informational support* of PLWHA and their family members.

**Project beneficiaries:**

PLWHA	<b>200</b>
family members of PLWHA	<b>250</b>
<i>total</i>	<i>450</i>

**Pinsk branch of Republican NGO “Mothers against drugs”**

- *Telephone hot-line service* providing psychological assistance and prevention of HIV/AIDS for PLWHA and their family members, IDUs and co-dependents;
- *Anonymous individual counseling* providing psychological support and information on HIV/AIDS prevention for PLWHA and their family members, IDUs and co-dependents;
- Psychological rehabilitation of PLWHA and IDUs in *self-help groups*;
- Information about HIV/AIDS services.

**Project beneficiaries:**

IDUs/ co-dependent	<b>134</b>
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**Republican NGO “Mothers against drugs”**

- *Telephone hot-line service* providing psychological assistance and prevention of HIV/AIDS for PLWHA and their family members, IDUs and co-dependents;
- *Individual counseling* providing psychological support and prevention of HIV/AIDS for PLWHA and their family members, IDUs and co-dependents;
- Psychological rehabilitation of PLWHA and IDUs in *self-help groups*;
- Information about HIV/AIDS services.

**Project beneficiaries:**

Women	<b>350</b>
PLWHA	<b>29</b>
IDUs	<b>39</b>
Young people	<b>75</b>
Co-dependent (family members)	<b>7</b>
<i>total</i>	<i>499</i>

**Republican Youth NGO “Vstrecha”**

- Information and educational bulletin for Men having sex with men (MSM) offers HIV/AIDS prevention information for the target group and provides information about community-based HIV/AIDS services. At the present time, the first issue of the bulletin is designed and ready to be published.

\* Distribution of the bulletin among the target group will be done in the next quarter.

**NGO “Youth educational center “Crossroads”**

- *Peer-to-peer seminars* on HIV/AIDS for school students;
- *Contest and exhibition of HIV/AIDS themed art* in local schools;
- Distribution of information materials – *theme posters and leaflets*.

**Project beneficiaries:**

Young people	<b>252</b>
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**Gomel NGO “Social projects”**

- Information on HIV/AIDS issues through a *themed web-site “Gomel-Info-AIDS”*, which includes:

- e-library of information materials on HIV/AIDS and healthy life styles;
- on-line consultation of specialist on HIV-related issues;
- information and referral data base of HIV/AIDS services in Gomel region;
- And telephone hot-line counseling.

**Project beneficiaries:**

Young people	354
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**NGO Local Charitable Foundation “Zemliachestvo”**

- Public awareness campaign on HIV/AIDS - *Social advertising video*;
- Public awareness campaign on HIV/AIDS - *Informational bulletin*.

General public	60,000
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\* In this case it was impossible to count the number of PLWHA reached, as well as to measure to what degree the HIV-related message made an impact on the general public.

[📄 For more information, please see micro-grants progress overview in Annex ‘A’](#)

**OBJECTIVE 3**

*To enhance the networking capacity of Belarusian NGOs and CSOs, working on HIV/AIDS, inter-and-cross sector relationships and cooperation.*

<b>Activity: Belarusian AIDS Network (BAN) Working group met with Lars Kallings, UN Secretary General’s Special Envoy on HIV/AIDS in Eastern Europe</b> (October 3, Minsk)	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
BAN capacity to advocate on behalf of AIDS-service NGOs and promote interests of vulnerable groups will be strengthened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Fifteen</b> AIDS-service NGOs participated in the meeting.</li> <li>▪ During the meeting the BAN leaders presented a list of the most crucial problems in HIV/AIDS work in Belarus to UN officials (including UNAIDS, Head of UN Office in Minsk, and coordinators of several UN agencies). In particular they emphasized inadequate inclusion of NGOs and PLWHA in planning, decision-making and implementation of HIV/AIDS national programs; doubtful sustainability of ARV treatment after the completion of the Global Fund project; need of independent evaluation of effectiveness of HIV/AIDS program efforts in Belarus; lack of the services for IDUs and absence of state rehabilitation centers for them .</li> </ul>
<i>Critical notes:</i> In Belarus where civil society has limited opportunity for dialogue with policy makers, BAN acts as a collective or unified voice of HIV-service NGOs and articulates their consolidated and agreed position.	

[📄 Follow up and impact of the working meeting:](#)

*“I urge political leaders to step forward and talk openly about HIV and AIDS. I speak for the strengthening of partnership of civil society organizations to ensure universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and care”- Lars Kallings said during his official press-conference in Minsk.*

*BAN position was seriously considered by the UN Office in Belarus. After the working meeting, the Head of UNDP office in Belarus invited BAN to delegate its representative to UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS.*

<b>Activity: Cross-border study tour on HIV/AIDS</b> (November 27-29, Ukraine)	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>

Methodologies, practices and experience in HIV/AIDS will be learned by Belarusian NGOs; Cross-border relations of AIDS-service NGOs will be strengthened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Six</b> NGOs including sub-grantees, active participants of CCF trainings, and members of HIV/AIDS trainers team participated in the study tour.</li> <li>▪ During the 3-day study tour they met and established contacts with <b>5</b> Ukrainian NGOs; the Belarusian group learnt about prevention, support and rehabilitation methods for women, children, PLWHA, and IDUs as they were introduced with the work of rehabilitation center for PLWHA, training programs for children/youth, multifunctional community center for HIV/AIDS vulnerable groups, volunteer center, and day care.</li> </ul>
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Critical notes:

Participants reported that the study-tour helped them to learn a great variety of working methods used by Ukrainian NGOs. In addition Belarusian specialists were impressed with the level of inter-sectoral partnership and how local municipalities and the national government appreciate work of AIDS-service NGOs in Ukraine.

[📄 For more information, please see case story in Annex ‘B’](#)

**Activity: Public Awareness Campaign “Words of Support to PLWHA”** (December 1-10, 2006)

<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
Belarusian AIDS-service NGOs will get practical experience of cooperation in building public awareness and advocating rights of vulnerable groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A call to take part in the campaign by sending electronic <i>Messages of Support</i> for people with HIV/AIDS was e-mailed to over <b>500 partners</b> in Belarus and other countries.</li> <li>▪ <i>Messages of Support</i> received from NGOs and mainstream citizens were pasted to the theme cards. On December 1, World AIDS Day, the cards with supportive and encouraging messages were handed out by the NGO volunteers to <b>1,000 people living with HIV/AIDS</b> in <b>6</b> communities, among them were Minsk, Vitebsk, Gomel, Svetlogosk, Zhlobin, and Lida.</li> <li>▪ Belarusian AIDS Network and <b>8</b> AIDS-service NGOs supported the campaign at the planning stage and coordinated it in communities.</li> </ul>

Critical notes:

This event organized by CCF and BAN-member NGOs was the first experience of a joint public awareness campaign on a national level. Using this model as a part of its routine agenda BAN will increase awareness of the general public regarding HIV/AIDS and the rights of PLWHA.

[📄 For more information, please see case story in Annex ‘C’](#)

**Activity: Round Table to discuss the National Targets of Universal Access to HIV/AIDS Prevention, Treatment and Care Services** (December 15, 2006)

<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
The role and capacity of Belarusian AIDS Network in advocating of opinions and interests of AIDS-service NGOs will be increased	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Leaders of <b>fourteen</b> (14) AIDS-service NGOs took an active part in discussion of the National Targets together UNAIDS, UNDP, and Global Fund project.</li> <li>▪ Recommendations of civil society were presented to UNAIDS and will be passed to the National Interministerial Council on HIV/AIDS/STI prevention</li> </ul>

Critical notes:

BAN once again demonstrated its ability to make the voice of the NGOs heard in formulation of the national HIV/AIDS strategy. This is quite a unique case for Belarus where the government keeps blocking participation of the civil society in policymaking.

[📄 For more information, please see case story in Annex 'D'](#)

<b>Activity: Training “Building Partnerships with stakeholders”</b> (October 14-15, 2006, Minsk)	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
Leaders of AIDS-service NGOs will improve their knowledge regarding networking, cooperation and partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Seventeen</b> participants from <b>15</b> organizations took part in the training.</li><li>▪ Training participants improved <b>theoretical knowledge</b> about partnership principles; and different forms of partnership – networks, coalitions, joint project.</li><li>▪ Training enhanced participants’ <b>practical skills</b> in defining key stakeholders and potential partners; making formal and informal relations with key stakeholders; involving key stakeholders in HIV/AIDS solutions; getting support from local stakeholders</li></ul>

[📄 Follow up and Impact:](#)

- ✓ Natalia Dmitrieva, leader of AIDS-service NGO “ASDEMO” (*Rechitsa*) made an analysis of NGO stakeholders and organized a working meeting with them. Thus, ASDEMO discussed common actions for HIV substance abuse prevention with regional social support center, an NGO “Mothers against drugs”, and a local TV station.

<b>Activity: Workshop “Effective negotiations with partners and stakeholders”</b> (December 10-11, 2006, Minsk)	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
Representatives of AIDS-service NGOs will enhance their negotiation and networking skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Seventeen</b> participants from <b>12</b> organizations took part in the training.</li><li>▪ Training participants improved theoretical knowledge regarding the main phases of negotiation process; types of negotiations; peculiarities of negotiation with different stakeholders (state, business, donor, community).</li><li>▪ At the training participants practiced different techniques, which help to make negotiation process successful: active listening; stress reduction methods; establishing personal contact; presentation and argumentation.</li></ul>

Critical notes:

This skill-based workshop was to improve basic managerial competencies of NGO representatives and support them in building cooperative relations with stakeholders. Participants pointed out that in addition to knowledge and skills the training helps to change behavior style. Thus, dealing with stakeholders they do it with more confidence presenting themselves as equal partners.

[📄 Follow up and Impact:](#)

- ✓ Andrey Levko, leader of the AIDS-service NGO “Focus group” (*Minsk*) reported that the training helped him to improve internal NGO communication and relations with partner organizations. Thus, he conducted successful negotiations with administration of evening school in Zhodino and made a partnership agreement to implement a joint project in prevention of domestic violence.
- ✓ Alexander Hodanovich, leader of AIDS-service NGO “Alternativa” (*Svetlogorsk*) conducted successful presentations of NGO programs to town administration and management of “Energoservice” Ltd. As a result solutions to some bureaucratic obstacles were found and an agreement was made to get some financial support to the NGO Rehabilitation Center for PLWHA.

- ✓ Galina Korotkevich, manager of *NGO “Women Center of Support and Education” (Mogilev)* conducted a multiplication workshop with NGO stakeholders. Through this workshop she enhanced NGO cooperation with stakeholders (government and community-based organizations) by sharing training materials and developing joint communication strategies with them.

### **III. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION**

CCF-Belarus has held regular project review meetings in Minsk. These meetings strengthened project management, performance and integration leading to enhanced cooperation and communication between project staff. CCF-Belarus and CCF HQ coordinated their efforts in engaging international experts for an advanced-level HIV/AIDS training program in Belarus.

*December 15, 2006* CCF-Belarus facilitated a joint Round Table with UNAIDS and the Belarusian AIDS Network to discuss the National Targets for Universal Access to HIV/AIDS Prevention, Treatment and Care Services.

### **IV. PROJECT MANAGEMENT & STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

In October 17-24 in Krakow (Poland) *Alexei Golontsov*, Project Manger, *Anna Arhangelskaya*, Small Grants Manger and *Alexander Novikov*, PR/Networking Specialist participated in training “Administration and Management of Grants”. The training was organized by CCF, Inc; all the expenses were covered by CCF, Inc.

### **VI. BUDGET**

SF-272 (this report is will be submitted under separate cover by CCF’s Headquarters).



## “HIV/AIDS NGO Capacity Building in Belarus”

### Overview of progress of micro-grants have been implemented in October – December 2006

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The general list:

1. NGO “Belarusian Children’s Hospice” (project “Establishment of self-help group of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA)”);
2. Pinsk branch of Republican NGO “Mothers against drugs” (project Anonymous helpline “With open heart”)
3. Republican NGO “Mothers against drugs” (project “Tough love”);
4. Republican Youth NGO “Vstrecha” (project “Information handbook”);
5. NGO “Youth educational center “Crossroads” (project “Youth movement against AIDS”);
6. Gomel NGO “Social projects” (project “GomelInfoAIDS”);
7. NGO Local Charitable Foundation “Zemliachestvo” (project “First step”)

<i>NGO name:</i>	<b>NGO “Belarusian Children’s Hospice”</b>
<i>Project name:</i>	“Establishment of self-help group of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA)”
<i>Project duration:</i>	23.05.2006-23.11.2006
<i>Project status:</i>	accomplished

**Five HIV/AIDS services established:**

1. Psychological rehabilitation of PLWHA in *self-help groups*;
2. *Individual counseling* of PLWHA regarding medical issues;
3. *Individual psychological counseling* of PLWHA;
4. *Social assistance* (individual consultation and advice of social worker);
5. *Informational support* of PLWHA and their family members.

- ✓ Total number of PLWHA assisted by the project is **200**;
- ✓ Total number of family members of PLWHA provided with informational and consultative assistance is **250**.

\* In addition to direct services to vulnerable groups NGO conducted series of trainings for medical staff of City Infection Clinic on management of self-support groups.

**Project outcomes:**

- The NGO helped to personnel of City Infection Clinic to improve overall assistance to PLWHA by electronic data-base creation. This software allows specialists to record interventions and track changes.
- The NGO established the informational office in City Infection Clinic to provide PLWHA with rapid consultation and information support (leaflets, brochures, referral information).
- New self-help group of PLWHA was created.
- The NGO together with administration of City Infection Clinic elaborated a plan of creation of specialized department for PLWHA. In accordance with this PLWHA will get in the Clinic complex of medical, psychological and social support. This plan was submitted to Ministry of Health and approved.

<i>NGO name:</i>	<b>Pinsk branch of Republican NGO “Mothers against drugs”</b>
<i>Project name:</i>	Anonymous helpline “With open heart”
<i>Project duration:</i>	25.07.2006-25.01.2007
<i>Project status:</i>	in the process

**Four HIV/AIDS services established:**

1. *Telephone hot-line service* providing psychological assistance and prevention of HIV/AIDS for PLWHA and their family members, IDUs and co-dependent;
2. *Anonymous individual counseling* providing psychological support and prevention of HIV/AIDS for PLWHA and their family members, IDUs and co-dependent;
3. Psychological rehabilitation of PLWHA and IDUs in *self-help groups*;

4. Information about HIV/AIDS services.

- ✓ Total number of beneficiaries assisted by the project is **134**.

**Project outcomes:**

- The NGO established new services (telephone hot-line and anonymous counseling in the community) and increased output of previously existed services (self-help groups).
- **Eight** PLWHA were trained as peer-to-peer consultants. This resource will be used to support service provision after grant is accomplished.
- The NGO succeeded to get **cost share from the local administration**. Thus, PR and informational materials were placed in newspaper “Mistsevy chas”, “Pinski vestnic”, in public transport and on local TV and radio for free of charge.

<i>NGO name:</i>	<b>Republican NGO “Mothers against drugs”</b>
<i>Project name:</i>	“Tough love”
<i>Project duration:</i>	28.06.2006-28.12.2006
<i>Project status:</i>	accomplished

**Four HIV/AIDS services established:**

1. *Telephone hot-line service* providing psychological assistance and prevention of HIV/AIDS for PLWHA and their family members, IDUs and co-dependents;
2. *Individual counseling* providing psychological support and prevention of HIV/AIDS for PLWHA and their family members, IDUs and co-dependents;
3. Psychological rehabilitation of PLWHA and IDUs in *self-help groups*;
4. Information about HIV/AIDS services.

- ✓ Total number of beneficiaries assisted by the project is **499**, including:
- ✓ women - **350**,
- ✓ PLWHA – **29**,
- ✓ IDUs – **39**,
- ✓ Youth – **75**,
- ✓ Co-dependent – **7**.

**Project outcomes:**

- Thanks to the project Minsk NGO “Mothers against drugs” transferred experience and established HIV/AIDS services in Vitebsk and Brest.

- Seven IDUs assisted in the project were directed to rehabilitation center to get in-depth support.
- The NGO submitted the appeal to the Parliament of Belarus with suggestion to improve rehabilitation services for vulnerable groups.

<i>NGO name:</i>	<b>Republican Youth NGO “Vstrecha”</b>
<i>Project name:</i>	“Information handbook”
<i>Project duration:</i>	21.09.2006-21.03.2007
<i>Project status:</i>	in the process

**One HIV/AIDS service established:**

1. Information and educational bulletin for Men having sex with men (MSM) offers HIV/AIDS prevention information for the target group and provides information about community-based HIV/AIDS services. At the present time first issue of the bulletin is designed and ready to be published.

**Project outcomes:**

- This bulletin became a measure to enhance NGO cross-sectoral cooperation. In particular, the NGO succeeded to get theme articles from Ministry of Health and AIDS prevention Center.

\* Distribution of the bulletin among the target group will be done in the next quarter.

<i>NGO name:</i>	<b>NGO “Youth educational center “Crossroads”</b>
<i>Project name:</i>	“Youth movement against AIDS”
<i>Project duration:</i>	01.09.2006-01.03.2007
<i>Project status:</i>	in the process

**Three HIV/AIDS prevention services established:**

1. *Peer-to-peer seminars* on HIV/AIDS for school students;
2. *Contest and exhibition of theme arts* in local schools;
3. Distribution of information materials – *theme posters and leaflets*.

✓ Total number of number of young people directly reached by the project is **252**

**Project outcomes:**

- The NGO broaden coverage of its HIV/AIDS services from 9 schools to 42 schools in Vitebsk city.
- The NGO designed a manual in hard copy and CD to support replication of project methodology in schools. At present 4 schools started doing their own activities on HIV/AIDS using this method.

<i>NGO name:</i>	<b>Gomel NGO “Social projects”</b>
<i>Project name:</i>	“Gomel-Info-AIDS”
<i>Project duration:</i>	30.06.2006-30.12.2006 (extended without budget increase till 20.01.2007)
<i>Project status:</i>	in the process

**Five HIV/AIDS prevention services established:**

1. Information on HIV/AIDS issues through *theme web-site “Gomel-Info-AIDS”*, which includes:
2. *e-library* of information material on HIV/AIDS and healthy life style;
3. *on-line consultation* of specialist on HIV-related issues;
4. *information and referral data base* of HIV/AIDS services in Gomel region.
5. And telephone hot-line counseling.

✓ Total number of number of young people registered as project beneficiaries is **354**

**Project outcomes:**

- The NGO summarized and systemized information about all HIV/AIDS services in the region. The electronic version of information-referral data base rendered to **18** public organizations.

<i>NGO name:</i>	<b>NGO Local Charitable Foundation “Zemliachestvo”</b>
<i>Project name:</i>	“First step”
<i>Project duration:</i>	20.06.2006-20.09.2006 (extended without budget increase till 11.11.2006)
<i>Project status:</i>	accomplished

**Two HIV/AIDS services established:**

1. *Social advertising video on HIV/AIDS.*
2. *Informational bulletin on HIV/AIDS.*

**Project outcomes:**

- Social advertising video was broadcasted on local TV stations in Svetlogorsk, Soligorsk and Pinsk. Estimated number of audience reached through this campaign is about **60,000**. But, in this case it was imposable to count the number of PLWHA reached, as well as to measure in what degree measure HIV-related message made an impact of on general public.

## List of new micro-grants selected within the framework of “HIV/AIDS NGO Capacity Building in Belarus”

**October – December 2006.**

NGO name (as in the approval)	Project name	Address, phone, e-mail	Name of NGO director	Amount	Duration
Youth NGO “New Faces”	AIDS by my own eyes”	17 liter G, office 600B, Masherov ave., 220029 Minsk, Belarus; <b>phone:</b> +37517 284-73-65, <b>e-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:newfaces@newfaces-belarus.org">newfaces@newfaces-belarus.org</a>	Elena Kasko	14 990 \$	12 months
NGO “Belarusian Children’s Hospice”	Children and HIV/AIDS	100A Berezovaya roscha str., 223053 Borovliany, Minsk reion, Belarus; <b>phone:</b> +37517 505-27-46, fax: 505-27-45; <b>e-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:hospicepall@mail.belpak.by">hospicepall@mail.belpak.by</a>	Anna Gorchakova	15 000 \$	10 months
NGO “Focus Group”	Fashion for Health	Partizanski ave. 2-4B-529, Minsk, Belarus; <b>phone/fax:</b> +375172983933 (2534898), <b>e-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:focus_group@mail.ru">focus_group@mail.ru</a>	Andrei Levko	15 000 \$	12 months
NGO “Amrita”	Youth against AIDS	Frunze 5-103, Minsk, Belarus; <b>phone:</b> +375 29 705 98 35 (mob), +375 17 216-01-75	Marina Voronich	14 999 \$	9 months
NGO “Belarusian Association of UNESCO Clubs”	Informational reference book of Belarusian AIDS service organizations	10-607 Platonova str., Minsk, Belarus; <b>phone:</b> (+37517)294 00 23, <b>fax:</b> 294 09 73; <b>e-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:d-subtselny@tut.by">d-subtselny@tut.by</a> , <a href="mailto:belau@user.unibel.by">belau@user.unibel.by</a>	Ludmila Bliznuk	14 900 \$	6 months
NGO “Young Men Christian Association”	Young people do HIV/AIDS prevention: education and information dissemination	ul. Pobedy 40, 231300 Lida, Belarus; <b>phone:</b> +375 17 241 40 11; <b>e-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:ecodomik@tut.by">ecodomik@tut.by</a>	Alexander Drachuk	14 982,50 \$	12 months
NGO “Dyhovnost”	A well-educated mother will have a happy child	Kirova 55-206, 246050 Gomel, Belarus; <b>phone:</b> (+375) 232773517, 296483595, <b>e-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:ikorbut@tut.by">ikorbut@tut.by</a>	Elena Dedkova	14 302 \$	12 months

Lida NGO “Young Men Christian Association”	“Mobile informational service on HIV/AIDS”	Nevskogo str, parking building room #4, 231300 Lida, Belarus; <b>Phone:</b> (+375) 1561 57490, 29 6387181 <b>e-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:ymcalida@tut.by">ymcalida@tut.by</a>	I. Karavas	8 269 \$	12 months
Youth NGO “Real World”	Knowledge. Health. Life...	Socialisticheskaya str. 53, 247400 Svetlogorsk, Gomel region, Belarus; <b>phone:</b> (+3752342) 41752, <b>fax:</b> 45211, <b>e-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:realw@gomel.unibel.by">realw@gomel.unibel.by</a>	Yuri Butyrin	14 975 \$	12 months
Youth NGO “Youth educational center “Fialta”	“Fashion for Health”	Myasnikova 35, 220030 Minsk, Belarus; <b>phone:</b> (+37517) 2227873, <b>e-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:fialta.city@gmail.com">fialta.city@gmail.com</a>	A. Butkevich	13 282 \$	12 months
NGO “Alternative”	Re-socialization of HIV-infected drug-abused	Polevaya str. 12, 247400 Svetlogorsk, Belarus; <b>Phone:</b> (+3752342) 26952, <b>e-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:altern70@mail.ru">altern70@mail.ru</a>	Alexander Hodanovich	14 900 \$	6 months
<b>Total:</b>				<b>\$ 155,599.50</b>	



## CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S FUND, Inc. Representative Office in Belarus

### **CCF-Belarus Organizes for Belarusian AIDS-Service NGOs First Cross-Boarder Study Tour to Ukraine**

To enhance mutual exchange of experience and best national practices, CCF-Belarus within its *HIV/AIDS NGOs' Capacity Building* project supported a series of in-country study tours for Belarusian AIDS-service NGOs where strongest NGOs in the sector acted as host organizations.

The need for such experience exchange opportunities continue to grow, and in November CCF offered its partners the possibility to learn about the techniques and approaches which are effectively implemented in the neighboring Ukraine and are not yet very well known in Belarus.

November 26-30, first cross-border study tour to Ukraine was organized for leaders of **six** Belarusian AIDS-service NGOs from Minsk, Gomel, Orsha, Pinsk and Svetlogorsk. During the selection of the participants priority was given to the organizations actively participating in the project activities: CCF grantees, participants of the trainings, and members of the National HIV/AIDS Trainers Team.

The program of the study tour was designed to present best practices of five leading Ukrainian AIDS-service organizations based in Kiev and Belaya Tserkov, including the All Ukrainian Network of PLWH, the Rehabilitation Center for IDUs and HIV-Positive People "Steps", Christian Children's Fund - Ukraine, the Center for Juvenile Delinquency Prevention, and the NGO "Alfa-Life".



Participants of the study tour visit community center of the NGO "Alfa-Life" in Belaya Tserkov

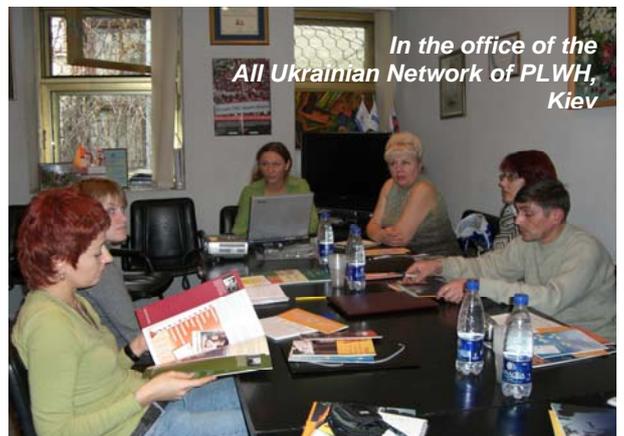


Meeting with staff of the Center for Juvenile Delinquency Prevention, Kiev

Evaluating the results of the visit, the Belarusian participants noted, that of all the practices and methods presented the ones which would be most useful in their future work in Belarus are:

- ⚡ programs focused on advocating rights of PLWHA and promotion of tolerant attitude among the general population,
- ⚡ intervention methods used in prevention, care and support programs for HIV-positive women and children,
- ⚡ and rehabilitation and adaptation methods adopted in the Rehabilitation Center "Steps".

The experience gained during the visit proved to be fully applicable in Belarus. Equipped with the new ideas, techniques and methodologies received from the Ukrainian colleagues, three of the NGOs which participated in the visit (*Belarusian Children's Hospice* from Minsk, *Dukhovnost* from Gomel, and *Alternative* from Svetlogorsk) were able to develop high-quality project proposals, which eventually won in the recent CCF micro-grant competition. The three winning projects are focused on provision of care and support to HIV-positive children and their family members, and on developing an in-patient rehabilitation program for IDUs and PLWHA.



In the office of the All Ukrainian Network of PLWH, Kiev



## CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S FUND, Inc. Representative Office in Belarus

### ***BAN's World AIDS Day Solidarity Campaign Demonstrates Support for People with HIV/AIDS and Builds Partnership Capacity of Belarusian AIDS-Service NGOs***

Developing effective partnerships is still a serious challenge for most Belarusian NGOs, and competitive and non-collaborative working style continues to be rather common. To cultivate the culture of partnership, Belarusian AIDS Network (BAN) supported by CCF-Belarus' *HIV/AIDS NGOs' Capacity Building* project promotes and facilitates information exchange and joint activities among its 15 member-NGOs. In 2006, BAN implemented a series of joint initiatives focused on **building public awareness** (May 21 Candlelight Memorial Campaign), **advocacy** (meeting with Special Envoy to UN Secretary General on HIV/AIDS in Eastern Europe), and **national HIV/AIDS agenda setting** (round table discussion of the National Targets of Universal Access to Prevention, Treatment and Care).

To transfer its experience of implementing joint efforts to a broader community of Belarusian NGOs, BAN jointly with CCF-Belarus conducted a nationwide solidarity campaign dedicated to the World AIDS Day, creating the opportunity for a wide circle of organizations to demonstrate solidarity, tolerance and support for people living with HIV/AIDS.

In mid November, a call to take part in the campaign by sending electronic messages of support for people with HIV/AIDS was e-mailed to over 500 BAN partners in Belarus and other countries: NGOs, state agencies, international organizations, and private individuals. The response to the appeal was very enthusiastic. Messages with words of support were received from 12 cities of Belarus, and also from Russia, Ukraine and Lithuania.

All the messages received were printed out and pasted into special theme cards, which on December 1, World AIDS Day, were handed out by volunteers of AIDS-service NGOs to **1,000 people with HIV/AIDS** in Minsk, Vitebsk, Gomel, Svetlogorsk, Zhlobin, and other cities of Belarus.



*Campaign theme cards with words of support for people with HIV/AIDS*

*"...I was shocked by the facts listed in the campaign appeal about the challenges HIV-positive people face in everyday life. It was difficult to find the right words to a real person with HIV/AIDS. But I think it is important to talk about it openly, without formalism and insincerity".*

Natalia, Minsk

*"The idea of this campaign is very good. For me as a participant it was very useful to make the effort to find the appropriate words. I was trying to understand what words would be important for me if I was in this situation. Thank you so much for reminding us by this campaign about the true values. I think it's one of the most important roles of any NGO".*

Svetlana, Gomel

The campaign had triple effect. Firstly, it gave so much needed support and encouragement to a large number of people with HIV/AIDS in a very meaningful and sincere way. Secondly, for all participants it created the opportunity to experience a sense of unity, solidarity and strong commitment to the cause of helping those affected by HIV/AIDS. And thirdly, it provided the eight AIDS-service NGOs involved in the campaign implementation with valuable practical experience of working together in conducting a joint nationwide solidarity effort.



## CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S FUND, Inc. Representative Office in Belarus



### *Belarusian AIDS Network (BAN) Voices the Opinion of AIDS-Service NGOs on the Key Document of National HIV/AIDS Policy*

Supported by CCF-Belarus' *HIV/AIDS NGOs' Capacity Building* project, Belarusian AIDS Network (BAN) continues to enhance its role and influence as an advocate of opinions and interests of Belarusian AIDS-service NGOs.

In December 2006, the process of setting **National Targets of Universal Access to HIV/AIDS Prevention, Treatment and Care Services** – key national HIV/AIDS policy document for 2007-2010 listing steps for achieving the Millennium Development Goals on HIV/AIDS on the national level – was begun in Belarus. To ensure broad inclusive approach, UNAIDS initiated the process of national discussion of the developed draft by state agencies, faith-based organizations, and NGOs.

On December 15, 2006, BAN organized and facilitated a meeting of Belarusian AIDS-service NGOs to discuss the draft of the National Targets and develop recommendations to be included in the final version of the document.

*“Realizing the Millennium Development Goals on HIV/AIDS – to halt and reverse the spread of the epidemic by 2015 – requires far greater access to HIV prevention services and AIDS treatment, care and support than is currently available. The 2006 Political Declaration of the UN General Assembly calls on all countries to set ambitious national targets on HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by the end of 2006 that reflect their commitment to move towards the goal of universal access by 2010. Clear national targets will promote partner alignment to national priorities and hold countries directly accountable for reaching the targets they set themselves...”*

*The Road to Universal Access, Concept Paper, UNAIDS*

Leaders of **14 AIDS-service NGOs**, representatives of UNAIDS and UNDP, and experts of all key state ministries and agencies took part in the discussion. The parameters of the Targets were thoroughly analyzed based on the criteria of their realism and ambitiousness. The meeting resulted in developing clear recommendations of the NGOs reflecting the most acute issues of the national HIV/AIDS policy, including:

- ✓ real coverage of prevention, treatment, care and support services;
- ✓ existing gaps and obstacles in reaching affected population;
- ✓ the roles of government and civil society organizations in achieving the National Targets.



The anonymous opinion of all participants of the discussion was that the recommendations made will significantly improve the overall quality of the document which will ensure more effective national measures for halting the spread of the epidemic. The agreed list of recommendations was later submitted to the National HIV/AIDS Coordinating Council for consideration before adopting the final version of the National Targets document.

Thus, BAN once again demonstrated its ability to make the voice of the NGOs heard in the process of formulating national HIV/AIDS policy, which is quite a unique case in Belarus where government continues to prevent broad civil society participation in policymaking at all levels.